

Minutes of the 66th meeting of the UK Computing Research Executive Committee on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 11:30, held online

PRESENT

Kevin Jones (Chair)
Amir Hussain

*Simon Dobson
David Hutchison

Alex Frangi
Julie McCann

BY INVITATION

*Nadia Berthouze (Membership
Panel Chair)

Julia Adamson (BCS)

Alex Taylor (IET)

IN ATTENDANCE

Maxine Leslie (BCS)

APOLOGIES

Michael Fisher

Jie Xu

Andy Gordon

Nicky Danino (CPHC)

Alastair Irons (BCS Academy)

Laura McDonnell (EPSRC)

Ben Scott (EPSRC)

**Joined for part of the meeting*

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Executive Committee members to the meeting and welcomed new member Alex Frangi who had been unable to attend the previous meeting following his election. Apologies for absence were received as above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (UKCRC/2024/03)

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 25 March 2024 were APPROVED and are now ready for transfer to the UKCRC website. *[Post meeting note: action complete]*

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

UKCRCEC meeting held on 25 March 2024

Matters arising: Consultations & submissions (item 3) – for the action for members to consider volunteering to co-ordinate consultations and submissions with A Hussain; K Jones indicated that he had not received any expressions of interest and proposed that A Hussain commences in the role and that if it becomes too burdensome, the Exec will re-visit. It was noted that Chris Johnson had recently forwarded a link to a [DSIT consultation on cyber resilience](#). J Adamson flagged (in the chat) that BCS plugged in to this consultation with inputs from the IT Leader Forum. The government has published its response and main findings are here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-on-software-resilience-and-security/government-response-to-the-call-for-views-on-software-resilience-and-security-for-businesses-and-organisations#conclusion-and-next-steps>.

A Hussain undertook to catch up with K Jones and Chris Johnson on this area.

ACTION: A Hussain

UKCRCEC meeting held on 25 October 2022

REF results (item 8) – for the action for members to contact the secretariat if interested in meeting with EPSRC to discuss REF results. This action was closed as the situation has now moved on.

RS0 Sectional Committee noms WG – volunteers needed (item 10) – there had been no offers to join this Working Group and the deadline of May has now passed. The Chair proposed that this activity is picked up again in the autumn in order to meet the 2025 deadline.

Relationships with NEPC & ARIA (item 11) – this action related to compiling a list of contacts links to wider UKCRC mission review and the establishment of a task and finish group to carry out this work. Members undertook to forward contacts within NEPC and ARIA, as well as broader contacts to K Jones and [M Leslie](#). The mission statement work was becoming urgent, especially in the light of sponsorship changes (see item 9 below). In addition to the Chair, A Frangi, N Berthouze and J Adamson volunteered to participate and M Leslie undertook to set up an initial online meeting of a task and finish group in August. **ACTION: M Leslie**

The historical actions related to the Mission Statement review, strategy and contact lists were closed and replaced with the action above.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Currently it remains difficult to realistically expect a high level of resources and commitment from the Exec Committee. Talking to members of the community, there is enthusiasm for the work of UKCRC, but little capacity to devote any time or energy to it. K Jones reported that he is will be stepping down from representing UKCRC on the BCS Academy of Computing Board and asked for volunteers from the Exec to take his place. M Leslie undertook to circulate this request to the full Exec membership to ask for volunteers including those who had sent their apologies, indicating the level of commitment required. **ACTION: M Leslie**

5. CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS

See matters arising (item 3) above in relation to the DSIT consultation and A Hussain's co-ordination of the UKCRC response.

6. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY (UKCRC/2023/12)

6.1 EPSRC Update – no report as L McDonnell and B Scott had been unable to attend the meeting.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Membership Panel – N Berthouze reported that the Panel had received no applications for membership since the last meeting. The membership of the Panel itself was now stable following the recent elections. The next elections will be in March 2025. The Chair reiterated the need for membership nominees (see actions below), perhaps from those growing within their career, either in industry or academia. A Frangi noted that once the mission is updated and launched, this will help with visibility and hopefully help increase engagement. This would also assist in making a concerted effort to recruit new members.

7.2 International Matters inc Informatics Europe – J Xu sent apologies but provided the following written report.

The first in-person meeting of 2024 for the Informatics Europe National Informatics Associations (NIA) was held on April 25, 2024. Unfortunately, UKCRC was unable to attend due to funding constraints for travel. The key topic at the meeting was the revision of NIA's

recommendations for Informatics Research Evaluation, drafted by a subcommittee of representatives from NIAs.

Informatics Europe (IE) has opened its CV Repository to all at <https://www.informatics-europe.org/services/cv-repository.html>. IE's CV Repository is a free platform designed to facilitate connections between informatics talent and recruiters across Europe. Students and recent graduates from non-IE member institutions can also register as applicants for a limited time. This repository aims to help early career professionals, including Bachelor's students in their final year, Master's and PhD students, as well as graduates in informatics and related disciplines.

7.3 CPHC – No report as N Danino and R Aspin had been unable to attend. It was AGREED that A Hussain stand down as UKCRC representative to CPHC Committee as it was considered sufficient for the CPHC representative to UKCRC Exec to represent both aspects.

7.4 BCS Academy – J Adamson reported that BCS is at the end of the current 5-year strategy cycle and has been working on the new strategy for 2025-2030, including the learned society and the BCS Academy's relationship with UKCRC and the computer science research community. It is timely that UKCRC is thinking about its mission at the same time and continued close liaison between BCS and UKCRC will assist greatly with this.

7.5 IET update – A Taylor reported that the IET is undergoing a period of significant transformation, with reviews of its structure including the governance taking place over the next 18 months. This is not always comfortable but is much needed as the organisation is 150 years old. K Jones asked A Taylor to let him know if UKCRC can help to contribute in future.

8. JOINT 2024 SUMMIT WITH CPHC AND BCS ACADEMY (UKCRCEC/2024/05)

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the Summit Feedback summary. K Jones and J Adamson provided their anecdotal feedback on the Summit. As a continuation of many years of annual CPHC conferences, the event felt more like a CPHC event rather than a UK Computing Summit. There was appreciation for the amount of work that CPHC had put in, particularly in the hosting at Coventry University. There was less involvement from UKCRC than would have been ideal and it was noted that most of the UKCRC membership only attends conferences if they are themselves the keynote speakers. Although the networking opportunities were welcomed, the format was not interactive enough and it would be important to put more thought into the BCS and UKCRC tracks, in particular to consider what would pull in people from those communities to attend. It might make sense to keep some of the CPHC elements (eg, the AGM) completely separate to any future event. Early planning was essential as a number of speakers that had been approached could not attend due to diary clashes. A wash up meeting will be held shortly to review the event and plan any future activity.

J McCann agreed on the importance of the event being viewed as a UK Computing Summit, invited speakers should feel honoured to be invited. A Frangi noted that the research community would be more likely to attend if there is more content on strategy, national thought leadership and government policy. In summary, it was thought that from a UK perspective it would be good to continue to have summits, preferably with government and media attention, even if it is only once every 2 years.

9. SPONSORING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

J Adamson explained that a two phase approach was being proposed:

1. The migration of online UKCRC content from the IET website to www.bcs.org. No major changes to the web content are envisaged.

2. To explore how to optimise the UKCRC/BCS relationship in terms of expertise for the benefit of the UK economy and society at large.

Phase 1 is the transactional phase and is well underway with liaison of the relevant teams, transferring media files and making the appropriate design changes. Once the green light is given, the migrated site will be operational in 6 weeks.

One area where further work may be required is data consent for the new website, which may have the effect of slowing down the migration. The Chair noted that this had happened when the original UKCRC website was migrated into the IET family of sites in 2020. As a result, it is unlikely that any content changes will be required and a 'lift and shift' approach will be sufficient. In terms of consent, it was suggested that a note be circulated to the membership to say that the website is moving host and inviting them to comment and/or withdraw consent for sharing their data (opt out).

In reply to a question from D Hutchison, it was confirmed that the website migration would have no effect on the UKCRC JISCMail lists.

Committee members AGREED that responsibility to liaise with the UKCRC membership on the website migration be delegated to BCS staff. J Adamson indicated that phase 2 and the UKCRC/BCS relationship may result in UKCRC being tethered into different parts of BCS eg, the Policy team. The Chair welcomed this opportunity to invigorate the relationship.

10. TRUSTED RESEARCH – TO DISCUSS HOW TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AND INFLUENCE DSIT TO GIVE IT ADEQUATE ATTENTION

This item had been raised at the October 2023 meeting by A Irons. It was agreed that this discussion be deferred until A Irons is in attendance.

11. RS SECTIONAL COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS WORKING GROUP – volunteers needed

This action is deferred until autumn 2024 (see item 3, matters arising).

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Potential relationships with the National Engineering Policy Centre (NEPC) & Advanced Research + Invention Agency (ARIA) – see matters arising (item 3) above.

12.2 UKCRC representative to BCS Academy of Computing Board – seeking volunteer – see Chair's report (item 4) above.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 8 October (11:00-14:30) at BCS London and will include a networking lunch and joint meeting with CPHC Committee and the BCS Academy of Computing Board. Exec Committee members are also invited to attend the Academy Board AI workshop in the Atrium of BCS London on that day from 14:30-16:30.

AGM 2024

Friday 6 December (12:00-13:00) – Online

UKCRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT MEETINGS 2022-4

Outstanding Actions in Red

No.	Item	Item No.	Decision/Action	Responsibility	Complete
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 11 June 2024					
4	Chair's report		Circulate call for a volunteer to represent UKCRC on the BCS Academy of Computing Board	M Leslie	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 24 October 2023					
7	REPORTS: Membership Panel	7.1	Liaise on the composition of the UKCRC Membership Panel <i>[added 25 Mar 24: look to co-opt an industrialist from the membership]</i>	N Berthouze/ K Jones	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 26 June 2023					
5	CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS		Forward any consultations that would benefit from a UKCRC-wide response to either K Jones or M Leslie	Members	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 7 June 2022					
7	REPORTS	7.1	Exec to think about potential members and communicate names to N Berthouze	Exec members	On-going